

ABSTRACT

Metrical analysis of the lyrical sections of Euripide's Alcestis

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The aim of this thesis is to provide an analysis of *cantica* from Euripide's *Alcestis*, based on the ancient colometry, reconstructed through the collation of the manuscripts *Vat. gr.* 909 (V), *Par. gr.* 2713 (B), *Laur. plut.* 31,10 (O), *Laur. plut.* 31,15 (D), *Laur. gr.* 32,2 (L) e *Vat. Pal. gr.* 287 (P). The medieval manuscript tradition reproduces, faithfully, the colometry established by the Alexandrian grammar scholars and, although there is still a large debate on the validity of ancient colometry, there is no doubt that it constitutes the oldest stage of the tradition and that it represents the starting point for a non-arbitrary colometric analysis.

The description and interpretation of the metric sequences is based on the ancient metric theory (Hephaestion, Aristide Quintilian, the metric scholia in Pindar and Aristophanes) as well as the results of contemporary metric research.

Each section of the *cantica* is accompanied by a synthetic negative critical apparatus, in which the metrically relevant variants and conjectures are recorded, and by a colometric apparatus, which takes account of the divergences of the codes with respect to the adopted colometry.

Are, also, reported the interventions and marginal annotations of a metric-prosodic nature made by Demetrio Triclinio on the text of the *Laur. gr.* 32,2 (L), with Trⁿ (=niger) e Tr^f (=fuscus).

The *constitutio textus* is followed by the commentary of sections in which are discussed metrical problems and textual problems relevant to metrical purposes, above all where the betrayed text appears corrupt and difficult to amend.

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